

3 February 1951

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Interagency Problems

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PARTICIPANTS: [ ] OPC  
[ ] OIC

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1. At the request of [ ] a discussion was arranged in order that we might hear the reactions of OPC to the list of interagency problems which we prepared under date of 27 January. In general the discussion reviewed OPC's concern with problems which are presently before OIC with an indication of those which were of special interest to OPC. [ ] presentation of OPC interest was speedy and almost breathless and in many instances superficial in character. His apparent intention was to flag those items in which OPC has an interest with the idea of assuring our consultation with them on such items.

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2. A notable exception to the rapid survey approach was the detailed discussion of the NSC 29 problem. In the entire discussion no mention was made of any specific problems other than those listed in our memorandum which might be on the OPC mind. In other words then the meeting was devoted solely to an examination of OIC problems rather than OPC problems. The following specific observations are made:

Item 2 - Name Plate Analysis. [ ] indicated simply collateral OPC interest in the progress which this project made and expressed an interest in knowing the results of the survey which OIC is conducting.

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Item 5 - Intelligence Support for OPC. [ ] indicated that discussions have been held with the State Department. He volunteered no information except that they had provided State with a report on the nature of the support which ORE had given OPC during the past year and indicated that we might have access to that report if it was of any value to us.

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Item 7 - Psychological Intelligence Support. [ ] indicated a considerable OPC interest in this topic because of their concern with "black" propaganda. When I indicated that the major responsibility for providing this type of report will presumably be disposed in the State Department he raised the question of State's obtaining all the raw intelligence which might be needed for psychological purposes. He did not develop the point further.

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Item 8 - NSC 29. [ ] indicated a special interest in this topic. In his estimation the problem has two aspects, (1) to provide the necessary studies which might be preliminary to any action, and (2) to take the necessary action, both overt and covert. As he sees OPC's role, it is, on specific request, to take care of covert protection of strategic resources. He wanted to make sure that I understood that OPC could not be concerned with the whole job but only with the portion indicated. He felt that there should be within the Government a positive directive force operating in this field. He cited as a possibility the NSRB with Symington's office as the executive authority. This despite recognition that Symington's role is legally an advisory one. He felt that such an arrangement would be considerably better than the State Department committee set-up which is at present handling the problem. He indicated that OPC has two papers that bear upon this problem. I glanced at both and they would be a real contribution in any further work we may be doing on this subject. One of them is a memorandum dated 7 August 1950 and setting forth OPC's peculiar interest in the problem. The other one is a memorandum dated late in August. Both of these memoranda would be made available to us on demand.

Item 9 - Foreign Nationality Groups. OPC is very much interested in this problem and any recommendations which OPC makes on the subject should be checked with [ ] or [ ]

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Item 12 - Scientific Intelligence. [ ] indicated passing OPC interest in what might result from our study of this question.

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Item 15 - Foreign Service Economic Reporting. OPC's interest in this subject is as a consumer of foreign economic reporting from the point of value which these reports might be to them in connection with their activities. They are anxious that the best possible report will be produced.

Item 17 - State Department Cables. OPC is generally interested in this subject and [ ] feels that in any approach we develop to this question a total CIA position should be reached first including a consideration of OPC's channels to State for cables. He indicated that such channels existed but would not specify what they were.

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